

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MEXICO 12127 01 OF 03 212141Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 AID-05 DHA-02 IGA-02
SP-02 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 H-01 ACDA-07
MC-02 L-03 /067 W
-----024532 212313Z /66

P 212129Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3689
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
CSA WASHDC
CNO WASHDC
CMC WASHDC
CSAF WASHDC
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 MEXICO 12127

SECDEF FOR ISA(SA)DSAA; USCINCSO FOR SCSA

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, MX
SUBJECT: ASSESSMENT OF US SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
FOR FY 1979

REF: STATE 133136

1. BY REFERENCE, ASSESSMENT OF INDIVIDUAL US SECURITY
ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR FY 1979 WAS REQUESTED. THE FOLLOW-
ING PROVIDES AN ASSESSMENT FOR MEXICO:

A. US INTERESTS SERVED BY MAINTAINING A SECURITY ASSIS-
TANCE RELATIONSHIP WITH MEXICO: THE DIRECT STRATEGIC IM-
PORTANCE OF MEXICO TO THE UNITED STATES IS DERIVED FROM
THE FACT THAT MEXICO IS ONE OF THE MORE DEVELOPED COUN-
TRIES IN LATIN AMERICA, HAS 1600 MILES OF VIRTUALLY UN-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MEXICO 12127 01 OF 03 212141Z

GUARDED BORDER WITH THE US AND FLANKS MARITIME LINES OF
COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN US PORTS AND THE PANAMA CANAL. IT
IS EVIDENT THAT DIRECT US INTERESTS WOULD BE SERVED BY EN-
COURAGING A MEXICAN ARMED FORCE CAPABLE OF DISCHARGING ITS
DUTIES OF NATIONAL SECURITY AND DEFENDING ITS FRONTIERS
WHILE REMAINING FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO US MILITARY DOCTRINE.
OPEN LINES OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE

TWO COUNTRIES ARE PARTICULARLY DESIRABLE.

B. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
IN MEXICO:

(1) ENHANCE THE FAVORABLE DISPOSITION OF THE MEXICAN
MILITARY TOWARD THE US.

(2) ENHANCE THE MEXICAN ARMED FORCES' INTERNAL SECURITY
CAPABILITIES AND STIMULATE US INFLUENCE BY PROVIDING PRO-
FESSIONAL MILITARY TRAINING.

(3) SUPPORT PRUDENT MODERNIZATION OF MEXICAN ARMED FORCES
AND ENCOURAGE USE OF US MILITARY DOCTRINE AND EQUIPMENT BY
BEING RESPONSIVE TO PURCHASE REQUESTS.

C. PRESENT AND FUTURE THREAT FROM MEXICAN GOVERNMENT POINT
OF VIEW: THE THREAT AS VIEWED BY THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT
CAN BE INFERRED FROM THE COMPOSITION AND DEPLOYMENT OF THE
ARMED FORCES. AT PRESENT, THE FORCES ARE ESSENTIALLY
SMALL, LIGHTLY EQUIPPED MILITARY FORCES WITH MANY UNITS
DEVOTED TO RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND INTERNAL SECUR-
ITY/POLICE FUNCTIONS. THE NAVY IS EQUIPPED, MANNED AND
OPERATES AS A COAST GUARD. THERE ARE NO MAJOR FORCES DE-
PLOYED IN FRONTIER AREAS. IT CAN BE INFERRED THAT THE
MEXICAN GOVERNMENT FORESEES NO EXTERNAL THREAT AND IS WORK-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MEXICO 12127 01 OF 03 212141Z

ING TO PRESERVE INTERNAL ORDER AND DEVELOP GOVERNMENT IN-
FLUENCE IN RURAL AREAS.

D. MEXICAN GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES TO MEET THREAT: THE
MEXICAN GOVERNMENT IS RESPONDING TO THE INTERNAL SECURITY
THREAT IT PERCEIVES BY MODEST INCREASES IN STRENGTH AND
CORRESPONDINGLY SMALL EQUIPMENT PURCHASES. ALL MILITARY
AND NAVAL ACADEMIES ARE WELL FUNDED AND OTHERWISE
SUPPORTED, PROVIDING A BASE FOR EXPANSION IF NECESSARY.

E. EMBASSY APPRAISAL OF THREAT AND STRATEGY: THE EMBASSY
CONCURS WITH THE PRIMARY THREAT PERCEIVED BY THE MEXICAN
GOVERNMENT AS BEING THAT OF INTERNAL INSTABILITY STEMMING
IN PART FROM THE COUNTRY'S EXPLOSIVE BIRTH RATE, AMONG THE
WORLD'S HIGHEST, AND AN ECONOMY INCAPABLE OF GENERATING
EMPLOYMENT TO KEEP PACE WITH THE POPULATION. THE DISAD-
VANTAGED, WHILE GROWING IN NUMBERS, ARE INARTICULATE AND
INCOHESIVE AND HAVE NOT RALLIED TO VARIOUS SMALL RADICAL
AND TERRORIST ELEMENTS WHICH HAVE STRUCK OUT AGAINST THE
GOVERNMENT. CURRENTLY, MEXICAN SECURITY FORCES ARE CAPABLE
OF HANDLING NEARLY ALL THREATS TO INTERNAL ORDER, AND THE
GOVERNMENT IS IN NO DANGER OF FALLING AS LONG AS THE RULING

PARTY REMAINS UNIFIED. NEVERTHELESS, THE BASIC PROBLEMS FACED BY THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT CANNOT BE SOLVED OVER THE SHORT TERM AND THUS HOPE A POTENTIAL FOR CAUSING INCREASED VIOLENCE OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS. THE STRATEGY OF MODESTLY INCREASING THE ARMED FORCES WITH SMALL EQUIPMENT PURCHASES APPEARS TO BE THE ONLY OPTION OPEN TO MEXICO IN VIEW OF THE COUNTRY'S CURRENT ECONOMIC CRISIS. THE ONLY REAL ALTERNATIVE, MASSIVE DEFICIT EXPENDITURES TO FINANCE MORE RAPID EXPANSION, IS PROBABLY NOT POLITICALLY POSSIBLE FOR THE NEAR FUTURE.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MEXICO 12127 02 OF 03 212149Z

ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 AID-05 DHA-02 IGA-02
NSC-05 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 ACDA-07 MC-02
L-03 H-01 /067 W

-----024640 212312Z /66

P 212129Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3690

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

CSA WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

CMC WASHDC

CSAF WASHDC

USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 03 MEXICO 12127

F. MEXICO'S VIEWS ON MORE OF ARMED FORCE BEST SUITED FOR REQUIREMENTS/THREAT: AS DESCRIBED IN PARAGRLPH 1C ABOVE, THE SMALL MEXICAN ARMED FORCES ARE IN REALITY A POLICE FORCE. NO CHANGE IN THIS CONCEPT IS FORECAST. EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS IS A REALISTIC APPROACH IN VIEW OF INTERNAL SECURITY THREAT AND CONSIDERS IT IS IN BEST US INTERESTS TO SUPPORT THE MEXICAN ARMED FORCES AS PRESENTLY CONCEIVED AND DEPLOYED.

G. DEFENSE ARTICLES AND SERVICES WHICH MAY BE SOUGHT BY MEXICO IN FY 1979: MEXICO HAS NOT MADE ITS INTENTIONS KNOWN WITH REGARD TO PURCHASE OF MAJOR MILITARY AND NAVAL EQUIPMENT FOR THE FY 1979 ERA. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE

COUNTRY IS IN SORE NEED OF MODERN ALL PURPOSE TACTICAL AIR-CRAFT AND NAVAL PATROL CRAFT AT A MINIMUM. IT IS LIKELY THAT MEXICO WILL CONTINUE ITS TRADITION OF MAKING DIRECT COMMERCIAL PURCHASES OF ITS EQUIPMENT WHENEVER POSSIBLE.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MEXICO 12127 02 OF 03 212149Z

H. IMPACT OF PURCHASES ON MEXICO'S ECONOMY/DEVELOPMENT PLANS: IT IS DOUBTED THAT MEXICO'S MILITARY OR NAVAL ACQUISITION PLANS WOULD BE SIGNIFICANT ENOUGH FOR ANYTHING EXCEPT A VERY MINOR BUDGETARY IMPACT. SIMILARLY, VERY FEW US CIVILIAN CONTRACT PERSONNEL WOULD PROBABLY BE NEEDED DUE TO LOW SOPHISTICATION AND QUANTITIES OF EQUIPMENT LIKE-
LY TO BE PURCHASED.

I. EXTENT OF AVAILABILITY OF DEFENSE ARTICLES AND SERVICES AVAILABLE FROM OTHER COUNTRIES: IN EMBASSY'S OPINION, EVERY TYPE OF BASIC ARM OR EQUIPMENT, SMALL AIR-CRAFT OR PATROL BOATS UNDER CONSIDERATION BY MEXICO IS AVAILABLE FROM SEVERAL COUNTRIES. US EQUIPMENT WOULD PROBABLY BE PREFERRED BY MEXICO FOR SUPPLY LINE CONSIDERATIONS. SHOULD THE EQUIPMENT NOT BE ATTRACTIVELY AVAILABLE FROM THE US, HOWEVER, MEXICO WILL NOT HESITATE TO GO ABROAD AS IN THE CASE OF THE ARAVA AIRCRAFT (ISRAEL) AND AZTECA PATROL BOATS (U.K.).

J. ARMS CONTROL IMPACT OF MEXICAN PURCHASES: NO ARMS CONTROL PROBLEMS ARE PROJECTED SHOULD MEXICO PURCHASE MILITARY HARDWARE IN THE FY 1979 ERA, SINCE MOST EQUIPMENT PURCHASES AT THIS POINT WILL GO TO REPLACE SUPERANNUATED OR UNSERVICEABLE EQUIPMENT AND WILL NOT REPRESENT AN EXPANSION OF MEXICAN CAPABILITIES. OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES IN THE REGION TEND TO HAVE MORE MODERN WEAPONRY, ALTHOUGH THE FORCE LEVELS ARE NOT AS HIGH.

K. HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS: NO CONSISTENT NEGATIVE HUMAN RIGHTS TRENDS IN MEXICO HAVE BEEN NOTED, AND APPROVAL OR DENIAL OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE REQUESTS FOR MEXICO WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO AFFECT MEXICAN HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MEXICO 12127 02 OF 03 212149Z

L. PROSPECT OF MEXICAN SUPPORT IN ARMS TRANSFER RESTRAINT: MEXICO WOULD PROBABLY CONSIDER THE QUESTION OF ARMS TRANSFER RESTRAINT IRRELEVANT SINCE THE COUNTRY IS NOT A MAJOR SUPPLIER OF ARMS AND INTENDS ALL PURCHASES FOR THE PUR-

POSES OF INTERNAL SECURITY. AN ACTIVE PROPONENT OF DISARMAMENT, MEXICO WOULD LIKELY AGREE PHILOSOPHICALLY TO ARMS RESTRAINT ON A WORLDWIDE BASIS. MEXICAN UNWILLINGNESS TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT NOT TO TRANSFER TRAINING IT RECEIVES IN US COURSES IS FOUNDED ON WHAT IT REGARDS AS DEMEANING US CONDITIONS. IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT MEXICO WOULD WISH TO TRANSFER THE RESULTS OF SUCH TRAINING.

2. IMET CONSIDERATIONS:

A. US INTERESTS ARE BEST SERVED UNDER IMET BY ATTENDANCE OF CAREER OFFICERS AT US PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS. IN THIS MANNER THE OBJECTIVES OF ENHANCEMENT OF ATTITUDE TOWARD THE US, IMPROVEMENT OF THE COUNTRY'S INTERNAL SECURITY CAPABILITY, AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE USE OF US MILITARY DOCTRINE CAN BEST BE PURSUED.

B. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT MEXICO WOULD SEEK TO PURCHASE MUCH EQUIPMENT RELATED TRAINING UNDER FMS DUE TO BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS, ALTHOUGH THE POSSIBILITY COULD NOT BE EXCLUDED IF A SIGNIFICANT PURCHASE OF NEW EQUIPMENT UNDER FMS WERE MADE.

C. AT PRESENT THE MEXICAN NAVY HAS A POLICY OF PAYING TRAVEL COSTS WHERE POSSIBLE WHILE THE MEXICAN ARMY DOES NOT. OFFICERS OF NEITHER SERVICE ARE PERMITTED BY LAW TO ACCEPT LIVING COSTS FROM THE US. IF ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MEXICO 12127 03 OF 03 212155Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 AID-05 DHA-02 IGA-02
NSC-05 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 ACDA-07 MC-02
L-03 H-01 /067 W

-----024845 212315Z /66

P 212129Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3691

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

CSA WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

CMC WASHDC

CSAF WASHDC

USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 03 MEXICO 12127

IN MEXICO IMPROVE, THERE IS A GOOD POSSIIBILITY THAT THE MEXICAN ARMY COULD BE ENCOURAGED TO SUPPORT MORE OF THE TRAVEL COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH IMET TRAINING.

D. FUNDING LEVELS FOR FY 1979: ALTHOUGH FUNDING LEVEL ESTIMATES ARE NOT SPECIFIED BY REFERENCH, SOME DISCUSSION OF THE SUBJECT IN GENERAL TERMS IS CONSIDERED USEFUL. THE PRESENT 200K IMET LEVEL WHICH IS ECONOMICALLY ADMINISTERED BY A SINGLE US INDIVIDUAL IN COUNTRY IS CONSIDERED A MINIMUM FROM THE STANDPOINT OF PROMOTING US INTERESTS AND INFLUENCE AND, AT THE PRESENT TIME, REPRESENTS A HIGH DEGREE OF INVOLVEMENT FROM THE MEXICAN STANDPOINT IN TERMS OF FISCAL AND MANPOWER RESOURCES. THE IMET GRANTS ARE NOT CONSIDERED "FREE" IN MEXICO BECAUSE OF THE FACT THAT THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT FUNDS AT LEAST PART OF ALL OFFICER TRAINING SUPPORT EXPENSES, AND THAT AT SUCH LOW STAFFING LEVELS, THE MEXICAN ARMY AND NAVY LITERALLY MUST SACRIFICE A KEY BILLET OR ADJUST END STRENGTH IN ORDER

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MEXICO 12127 03 OF 03 212155Z

TO PARTICIPATE IN IMET TRAINING. THE TREND IN THE MEXICAN PROGRAM IS TOWARD A HIGHER PERCENTAGE OF OFFICERS TO CAREER AND PROFESSIONAL COURSES. FOR EXAMPLE, AN ARMY OFFICER WILL SOON BE ATTENDING THE US ARMY COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COURSE IN FORT LEAVENWORTH FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1970. SELF SUFFICIENCY IN TRAINING FORMALLY RECEIVED IN THE US AND CANAL ZONE WILL BE ENCOURAGED WHERE PRACTICABLE. ALSO TO THE END OF SELF SUFFICIENCY AND GREATER MILEAGE FROM THE IMET DOLLAR, A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF THE IMET BUDGET WILL BE DEVOTED TO LITERATURE AND TRAINING AIDS.

3. AMBASSADOR'S PERSONAL ASSESSMENT: I HAVE PERSONALLY REVIEWED THE FOREGOING AND BELIEVE A SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN MEXICO TO BE A HIGHLY IMPORTANT LEVER IN THE STIMULATION OF US INFLUENCE WITHIN THE MEXICAN MILITARY. I CONSIDER THE RELATIVELY SMALL AMOUNT OF FUNDS EXPENDED IN MEXICO TO BE A SINGULARLY MODEST INVESTMENT IN CONSIDERATION OF THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF MEXICO AND THE POTENTIAL FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DISRUPTION SHOULD OUR LARGE AND IMPORTANT NEIGHBOR TO THE SOUTH EXPERIENCE PROBLEMS IN MAINTAINING INTERNAL ORDER. IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, I RECOMMEND THAT THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR MEXICO CONTINUE WITH THE OBJECTIVES AND AT THE PROGRAM LEVEL PRESENTLY CONCEIVED. LUCEY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECURITY, POLICIES, MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MEXICO12127
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770260-0408
Format: TEL
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770734/aaaabcto.tel
Line Count: 330
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9ee3ea65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 7
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 133136
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1791796
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASSESSMENT OF US SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR FY 1979
TAGS: MASS, MX, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9ee3ea65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009